

the democratically elected government of Chile. Open the files, release the documents, let the light finally shine on this dark and shameful period. It will set us all free.

HINDUS ABDUCT, ABUSE NUN IN INDIA

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 27, 1999

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, I was distressed to read an article from the Indian Express of September 24 which reported that a nun was abducted in the Indian state of Bihar. This is the state where a priest was beheaded last year. Will the religious violence in India never stop?

I thank Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, for bringing this terrible event to my attention.

Sister Ruby of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary was abducted September 20 after being forced into a rickshaw in the village of Chapra. The kidnappers threatened to rape her. The two men accused Sister Ruby of trying to convert Hindus and they threatened to "teach all Christians a lesson."

This is unfortunately typical. Christians were subjected to a wave of church burnings, as well as attacks on prayer halls and schools earlier this year. Another priest was murdered last week. Missionary Graham Staines and his two sons, ages 8 and 10, were burned to death while they slept in their Jeep by a Hindu fundamentalist mob. Last year four nuns were raped and four priests were murdered. In 1997, police broke up a Christian festival with gunfire.

These incidents are related to religious conversions by members of the lower castes. To the Hindu militants, all conversions are forced conversions.

But it is not just the Christians who have suffered from this kind of religious persecution. Many of my colleagues and I have detailed the religious repression of Sikhs and Muslims by the Indian government and its agents and allies. Sikhs continue to be murdered for their religion and their Golden Temple remains under surveillance by plainclothes police officers fifteen years after the Indian government's attack on the Sikh Nation's holiest shrine. Muslims have seen their most revered mosque in India destroyed and many of their adherents killed.

We should support the right of the minority peoples of Khalistan, Kashmir, and Nagaland to a free and fair vote on independence from India.

Mr. Speaker, I insert the Indian Express report on the abduction of Sister Ruby into the RECORD.

[From the Indian Express, Sept. 24, 1999]

NUN KIDNAPPED, STRIPPED IN BIHAR; BISHOPS PROTEST

(By Arun Srivastava)

PATNA.—A nun was kidnapped, tied up and stripped in Chapra on September 20.

The nun, belonging to the congregation of the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart (better known as Pondicherry Blue Sisters), was forcefully taken in an autorickshaw by two unidentified men on Monday morning to a

secluded spot. Her hands were tied behind her back, she was stripped and was forced to drink their urine.

The nun, who hails from Pondicherry, came to Bihar recently and does not know the dialect. She is an inmate of the St. Joseph's Convent in Khalpura Inchapra which is involved in working with the poorest of the poor.

She had left her convent around 9 in the morning for Gandhi Chowk from where she took an autorickshaw for the local post office. There were two men in the autorickshaw.

When she realised that she was being taken through an unfamiliar route, she asked to be dropped off. They did not stop the vehicle and one of them took out a knife, threatened to kill her and accused her of converting people.

He asked her why she and others were still in Chapra and why they have not left for south India. He told her that Christians would be taught a lesson once the elections were over.

According to the Bishop of Bettiah, who in a statement narrated the whole incident, the nun was dragged out of the vehicle, her hands tied and then she was stripped. The two men urinated in a bottle and threatened to rape her when she refused to drink.

Later she was given back her clothes and warned not to contact anyone on the phone. One of the attackers followed to make sure that she did as told. Director General of Police A R Jacob said: "I have been briefed by the Bishop of Patna about the incident." He added: "Right now, I am unable to say anything about the incident. But I am seriously looking into it. I can assure that no one will be spared."

Jacob has assigned IG A K Gupta and the SP of Chapra to "personally investigate the matter." He has also sent to Chapra a senior woman officer who knows Tamil to investigate the incident.

The DGP said the FIR was filed only today as the local police station refused to register the case yesterday because the petition was in English. He is also looking into the delay in registering the case. The Bishop of Bettiah, Rev Victor Henry Thakur, visited the convent. The Archbishop Benedict J Osta and the Bishop of Bettiah have strongly condemned the outrageous attack and have demanded a thorough probe.

They stated that the Christians will not be frightened by such threats and will continue to serve the poor and the distressed more zealously.

Allen R Johannes, press secretary of the Diocese of Bettiah, said the ugly and inhuman act has shocked the entire Christian community in North Bihar and is creating an atmosphere of fear and panic among the Christian minority as the news spreads over the state.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 27, 1999

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, September 22, 1999, I was unavoidably detained and was not present during rollcall vote 430. Had I been present I would have voted "no."

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 1501, JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 24, 1999

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, in the five months since the shooting of 16 innocent high-school children at Columbine High School in a suburb of Denver, Colorado, over 500 American citizens have died as a result of gun violence. What has the Republican leadership in Congress done to address this problem? Absolutely nothing. What is worse, the motion offered by Congressman JOHN DOOLITTLE does even less. This motion, which says that anything during the conference of the Juvenile Justice bill that could possibly harm the Second Amendment to the Constitution should be rejected, is a terrible motion. It is terrible because Congress should protect our neighborhoods, our police departments, and the American people. This motion does protect one group of individuals—the gun lobby. I make no apologies for standing up for our neighborhoods, our police departments, or the citizens of the 15th Congressional District of Michigan.

This motion does not protect our neighborhoods. Several Members of Congress, Republicans and Democrats alike, have offered reasonable, sane, and safe recommendations regarding gun control. The issue of guns is one that cuts across the whole of America's fabric, but it especially harms minorities and urban areas—similar to the area which I am honored to serve. By limiting the options of Members to posit real and reasonable constitutional limits to control the glut of guns in our nation, this motion makes our neighborhoods unsafe. All we are asking is that gun dealers perform background checks, that child safety locks be sold on handguns, and that former criminals be prevented from buying guns.

This motion does not protect our police departments. The Fraternal Order of Police Officers and the International Association of Police Chiefs have endorsed measures similar to the Brady law. These same organizations have both supported measures that would get rid of "cop killer bullets", assault weapons and high-powered rifles. This motion would, incredibly, not allow these measures to be considered by the conferees.

This motion does not protect the Constitution. We have all sworn to protect and defend the Constitution. It is Congress' job to make laws; it is the job of the women and men of the Supreme Court to interpret the Constitution. We do not need to establish the precedent of "pre-interpreting" the Constitution for the sake of a sound bite or political folly. This motion removes the option of interpreting the Constitution from the Judicial branch, presupposing that Members of Congress know what is best for the Constitution.

I will continue to fight for our Constitution. I will continue to protect our children, our senior citizens, our neighborhoods, our police officers. I say no to the glut of guns on our streets and to the gun lobby. I urge my colleagues to say no to the Doolittle motion.